

been an active member of the International Longshoremen's Association since 1959, and now serves as the Vice-President to that organization. John D. Baker has committed his life to the cause of worker's justice. John D. Baker has served on many councils and committees, covering a wide-range of issues. From labor disputes to historical preservation, John D. Baker has played an important role in the development of the Cleveland area.

John D. Baker is a deserving recipient of the Irish Good Fellowship Club's Good Fellowship Award. Throughout his life, he has worked to help other people; both in their personal lives as well as in their workplaces. John D. Baker has been a great force of fellowship for many people, always offering caring words of encouragement and his friendship. A fellowship award is truly justified by Mr. Baker's daily life.

Throughout his life, Mr. John D. Baker has proven to be a leader by bringing people together and working for a more just society. His hard work and dedication have inspired many people to strive with him when he stands up for workers everywhere. My fellow colleagues, please stand with me in honoring Mr. John D. Baker.

MACHINIST BATTLED BIG LABOR FOR FOUR DECADES; RIGHT TO WORK ADVOCATES MOURN JOHN WALDUM, THEIR "HAPPY WARRIOR"

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, throughout its 45-year history, the National Right to Work Committee has been blessed with many loyal friends who selflessly offered their support in one legislative battle after another.

But even in the pantheon of Right to Work champions, there is no one else like John Waldum Jr., a retired machinist and former union member and a Committee board member since 1967.

Mr. Waldum, who served as the Committee's chairman from 1998 until last spring, passed away November 28 in Lake Worth, Fla.

"John had a slogan. 'You only keep what you are willing to defend.' And John took that slogan seriously. He spent his life fighting against the odds, but with an indomitable spirit that was, and will continue to be, an inspiration to us all."

Mr. Waldum first recognized the injustice and inherent dangers of compulsory unionism as a young man working in Missouri, which had (and has) no Right to Work law.

Kansas City union bosses wielded their monopoly power over his job to intimidate him into joining a strike—even though he believed it unjust and contrary to his long-term best interest.

Mr. Waldum quickly became a convinced Right to Work supporter, even as he continued to try to improve the system from within, both as a member of the Machinists union and as a shop steward for the United Auto Workers union.

As a result of his outspoken support for Right to Work, he endured years of harassment from power-hungry union officials.

Finally, in the early 1960s, Mr. Waldum and his family moved to Florida, a Right to Work state.

He later became a research and development machinist for the Pratt-Whitney Engine Corporation. All the while, he kept on fighting for the Right to Work cause.

When President Lyndon Johnson and the union hierarchy moved in 1965 to reimpose forced union membership and "fees" in Florida and other Right to Work states by abolishing Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, Mr. Waldum enlisted in efforts to stop them.

The pointed testimony that Mr. Waldum and other freedom-loving workers gave to the U.S. House Labor Committee helped slow

During the 1970s Mr. Waldum participated in a successful campaign to tighten enforcement of Florida's Right to Work law and stiffen penalties for violators.

After he retired and moved with his wife Dorothy to Sebring, FL, Mr. Waldum relished the opportunity to expand his lobbying activities on behalf of the Right to Work cause.

During the 1990s he visited Washington, D.C., a number of times, and accepted invitations to testify before the National Labor Relations Board and congressional committees.

In 1993, he undoubtedly dumbfounded NLRB officials when he called the federal laws empowering union bosses to force workers to pay union dues as a job condition "a travesty of justice" that has transformed Organized Labor into "nothing more than a union press gang."

His testimony and his many letters to the editor often brimmed with moral indignation about how federal law and Big Labor-influenced bureaucrats trample the freedom of the individual worker.

But the ever-present twinkle in his eye made it clear that Mr. Waldum was not angry—only determined to make the world a better place.

John Waldum was a true gentleman and an outstanding spokesman for the Right to Work cause and he will be deeply missed.

Mr. Waldum is survived by his wife and their son and daughter, and four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR CIVIL SERVANT RESERVISTS AND GUARDSMEN ACT OF 2001

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation today that will ensure the fair treatment of all civil servant reservists and guardsmen who are called up for active duty service. The Fairness for Civil Servant Reservists and Guardsmen Act of 2001 will mandate that all federal agencies pay the employee share of Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums if they are on active duty for more than 30 days.

Currently, the federal government pays only the government portion of the health premium when a reservist is called to active duty. Because these men and women take leave without pay from their federal jobs, they often find themselves having to pay their portion of the premium from a much smaller salary, which can be a serious strain on their family finances. While reservists and their families are also eligible for military health care during this period, this alternative often constitutes a burden on the families, who may have to travel great distances to get to military health facilities and are forced to develop a new relationship with a different doctor.

The men and women of our National Guard and Reserve units perform absolutely essential functions in times of conflict. The soldiers of Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Wing and 440th Airlift Wing have answered the call time and time again. Those who also happen to be federal employees should not, on top of everything else, have to worry about how their families will get health care while they're off serving our country.

During the Gulf War, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) asked federal agencies to cover both employee and employer costs of FEBHP premiums for those reservists and guardsmen who were on active duty and on leave without pay status. Last year, one of my constituents contacted me asking why this policy had not been extended to all civil service employees on active duty since the war. I then began contacting OPM and the Department of Defense (DoD) requesting that the policy be made permanent.

In June 2000 the OPM circulated a memo to agency heads encouraging them to make the policy a formal one. Earlier this month, DoD announced that it will begin covering health care premiums for all of its civil servant reservists or guardsmen who are called to active duty.

This bill would require that all federal agencies pay the FEHBP premiums of all their employees who are reservists or guardsmen that are called up for active duty in the future. It would also require federal agencies to reimburse the premiums paid by employees who served on active duty during Kosovo, Bosnia, and the 1998 Iraq operations.

Regarding the cost of this legislation, it is a very small price to pay for fairness. For example, the Pentagon estimates that it will only cost \$2.3 million to reimburse the 1600 DoD employees who have served in the Balkans and Iraq over the past 10 years. Since the DoD is the largest employer of reservists and Guardsmen, that will be the highest amount any agency has to pay. More importantly, the Pentagon has even said they don't need supplemental appropriations to make the retroactive payments. Future costs will vary depending on the individual contingency operation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this fair and important legislation.